

What is claimed is:

1. A gateway device which interconnects two communication buses implemented with different communication methods, comprising:

5 judging means for judging whether or not information received from one communication bus is information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus; and

10 filtering means for transmitting said received information to said other communication bus only when said received information is judged by said judging means to be the information that should be transmitted.

15 2. A gateway device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said judging means judges, based on contents of a command, whether or not the information received from one communication bus is the information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus.

20 3. A gateway device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
storage means for storing the information that is judged by said judging means to be the information that should be transmitted; and

25 second filtering means for comparing the contents of the information stored in said storage means with contents of information of the same kind as said stored information when such information is newly received, and for transmitting said received information to said other communication bus and updating said stored information at the same time only when there is a change
30 in the contents.

4. A gateway device as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

35 means for transmitting the information stored in said storage means to said communication bus in accordance with a request made from said communication bus.

5. A gateway device as claimed in any one of

claims 1 to 4, wherein said gateway device interconnects two communication buses in an automobile.

5 6. A method of gatewaying in a gateway device which interconnects two communication buses implemented with different communication methods comprising the steps of:

(a) judging whether or not information received from one communication bus is information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus; and
10 (b) performing filtering to transmit said received information to said other communication bus only when, in said step (a), said received information is judged to be the information that should be transmitted.

15 7. A method of gatewaying as claimed in claim 6, wherein said step (a) judges, based on contents of a command, whether or not the information received from one communication bus is the information that should be transmitted to the other communication bus.

20 8. A method of gatewaying as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

(c) storing the information that is judged in said step (a) to be the information that should be transmitted; and

(d) performing second filtering whereby
25 contents of the information stored in said step (c) is compared with contents of information of the same kind as said stored information when such information is newly received and, only when there is a change in the contents, said received information is transmitted to
30 said other communication bus while, at the same time, updating said stored information.

9. A method of gatewaying as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of:

35 (e) transmitting the information stored in said step (a) to said communication bus in accordance with a request made from said communication bus.

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